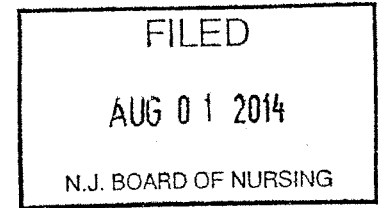


JOHN J. HOFFMAN
ACTING ATTORNEY GENERAL OF NEW JERSEY
Division of Law, 5th Floor
124 Halsey Street
P.O. Box 45029
Newark, NJ 07101



By: Susan Carboni
Deputy Attorney General
Tel: (973) 648-2894

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DEPARTMENT OF LAW & PUBLIC SAFETY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE BOARD OF NURSING

IN THE MATTER OF THE
LICENSE OF

Administrative Action

AMAKA AKPUNONU, R.N.
LICENSE # NR 13581100

CONSENT ORDER

TO PRACTICE NURSING IN THE
STATE OF NEW JERSEY

This matter was opened to the New Jersey State Board of Nursing ("Board") upon receipt of information that respondent Amaka Akpunonu, while employed as a nurse at Trenton Psychiatric Hospital on at least one occasion in February, 2012, documented assessment of the status of a percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) tube that had been installed to feed patient

S.C. in the event that he refused to eat. The records indicate that S.C. was a difficult patient. The documentation indicated that the PEG tube was intact. However, on February 22, 2012, the patient's treating physician at the facility found that the tube had been removed, and the fistula wound had already healed completely. S.C. stated that he had pulled out the tube, or that it had fallen out, two weeks earlier.

According to respondent, the patient had refused assessment and flushing of his PEG tube, had told her the tube was intact, and had told her he would take his nutritional supplement by mouth. Nevertheless, respondent documented that she assessed the PEG tube.

According to respondent, on February 22, 2012, the patient's psychiatrist noted that the patient "refused to talk," and that he had "zero insight into his illness and poor judgment." Respondent further maintains that prior to February 2012, S.C.'s physicians had not entered any order permitting respondent to request a "physical hold" in order to feed S.C. if he refused care. Respondent maintains that subsequently a "physical hold" order was authorized for S.C. Moreover, respondent maintains that there is no indication that S.C. suffered any harm with respect to the removal of the PEG tube.

The Board finds that respondent's documentation that S.C.'s PEG tube was intact at a time when it could not have been intact

indicates that she provided inaccurate documentation with regard to an assessment which did not occur, and constitutes professional misconduct in violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).

The parties desiring to resolve this matter without admissions and without further proceedings, respondent waiving any right to a hearing, and the Board finding that the within order is sufficiently protective of the public health, safety and welfare, and for other good cause shown;

IT IS, ON THIS 1st DAY OF August, 2014

HEREBY ORDERED AND AGREED THAT:

1. A reprimand is hereby imposed for respondent's violation of N.J.S.A. 45:1-21(e).
2. A \$500.00 civil penalty is hereby imposed. Payment shall be in the form of a certified check, money order or attorney trust account check, made payable to the State of New Jersey, and shall be submitted along with this signed order.
3. Respondent shall, within six months, document completion of a nursing ethics continuing education course pre-approved by the Board, which shall not be eligible towards satisfaction of a respondent's continuing education obligations pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:37-5.3. As respondent has already provided documentation of

completion of a Board-approved ethics course, no further action is required of respondent in this regard.

NEW JERSEY STATE BOARD OF NURSING

By: Patricia Ann Murphy PhD APN
Patricia Ann Murphy, PhD, APN, C

I have read and understand
The within Consent Order and
Agree to be bound by its terms.

Amaka Akpunonu
Amaka Akpunonu, R.N.

Consent as to form and entry:

Alma L. Saravia
Alma L. Saravia, Esq.
Attorney for respondent